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Remarks

Claims 1-14 were pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10-14 have been amended and claims 1, 5, and 9 have been canceled. The undersigned avers that no new matter is introduced by this amendment. Entry and consideration of the amendments presented herein is respectfully requested. Accordingly, claims 2-4, 6-8, and 10-14 are currently before the Examiner for consideration. Favorable consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, the applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 2-4, 6-8, and 10-14 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. The applicants respectfully submit that the amendments presented herein place the subject application in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 5, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,849,749). By this Amendment, the applicants have canceled claims 1, 5, and 9. Thus, this rejection has been rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments to the claims, the applicants believe that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account 19-0065.

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The applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

David Saliwanekk

David R. Saliwanchik

Patent Attorney

Registration No. 31,794

Phone No.: Fax No.:

352-375-8100 352-372-5800

Address:

Saliwanchik, Lloyd & Saliwanchik

A Professional Association 2421 NW 41st Street, Suite A-1 Gainesville, FL 32606-6669

DRS/la